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Letter dated 21 May 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Chad to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Please find attached, for the attention of the Security Council, a memorandum drawn up by Chad on the future of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT) (see annex). I would particularly like to draw the Council's attention to the commitment renewed on several occasions by the Government of Chad to maintain the Détachement intégré de sécurité (DIS), to strengthen it, to address its material and financial needs, and to provide it with operational support from the Chadian defence and security forces in order to enable it to perform its mission effectively until the voluntary return of refugees to their places of origin. In addition, I would like to reiterate the commitment of Chad to fulfil its responsibility to protect and ensure the safety and security of civilians and related individuals in accordance with humanitarian law.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ahmad **Allam-mi**
Ambassador

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Annex to the letter dated 21 May 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Chad to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Memorandum on the future of MINURCAT and the post-MINURCAT period

1. According to the 23 April 2010 non-paper between the Government of Chad and the United Nations Secretariat, the new configuration of the MINURCAT military component will consist of 1,900 troops. It will be deployed in two primary locations, Farchana and Goz Beida, and will also maintain a reduced logistics base in Abéché and a headquarters in N'Djamena. The military component will perform the following tasks:

(a) Provide security for MINURCAT personnel in their base locations, facilities, installations and equipment;

(b) Maintain situational awareness in the vicinity of MINURCAT locations;

(c) Provide escort details for United Nations military personnel carrying out enabling support functions; and

(d) Provide extraction support for United Nations and humanitarian personnel, if necessary, in cooperation with Chadian forces.

2. In order to carry out the aforementioned tasks, the 1,900-man military component of MINURCAT will consist of troops, support staff and a rapid reaction force.

3. The new military component will remain in Chad until 15 October 2010. At the end of its mandate, the military component will cease its operations and commence its final withdrawal, which will be a gradual process.

4. The activities of MINURCAT under its civilian mandate will also be assessed on 15 October 2010. The United Nations and the Chadian side will decide on the appropriate measures to take pursuant to the outcome of this assessment.

5. There have been positive developments in the security situation in eastern Chad, despite criticism to the contrary. This is due to the normalization of relations between Chad and Sudan following their N'Djamena Agreement of 15 January 2010. This Agreement led to the deployment of a 3,000-strong joint Chad-Sudan force along their common border. The decision was also taken to open the border between the two countries, which led to action being taken to deny any cross-border movements of armed elements and stem criminal activities.

6. This new context has enabled the Government of Chad to assume full responsibility for the security and protection of the civilian population in the performance of the following tasks:

(a) To ensure the security and protection of civilians in danger, particularly refugees and internally displaced persons;

(b) To facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid and the free movement of humanitarian personnel by improving security in eastern Chad; and

(c) To ensure the security and freedom of movement of MINURCAT staff and United Nations and associated personnel.

7. It should be recalled that the Government of Chad had withdrawn Chadian military personnel from humanitarian work so that the United Nations force and DIS elements could take their place. In view of the new state of affairs, security will be strengthened if military personnel are relocated to the centres vacated by the United Nations force and if towns are strengthened by elements of the Gendarmerie and the Garde nationale et nomade du tchad (GNNT). The Détachement intégré de sécurité (DIS), which was responsible for security in and around refugee camps and displaced persons' sites within a 10 kilometre radius, will then have a broader scope for action throughout its areas of jurisdiction, in addition to the provision of escort details for humanitarian workers that would need to be arranged in cooperation with other security forces in the region. The security belt in eastern Chad will consist of the following three levels:

- The first level of security comprises the sovereignty forces (the Chadian national army), which are based in the garrison towns along the border from Bahai to Tissi. In addition, the joint Chadian-Sudanese force is based in 10 locations on either side of the border and its current headquarters is in Eldjineina (the Sudan); this will be relocated to Abéché in sixth months;

- The second level comprises the forces of the Gendarmerie Territoriale and GNNT, which are located in all large villages on the side of the border between the DIS area of operations and the garrison towns. There is also a joint disarmament force which continuously patrols the entire eastern area. This is a mobile force which provides support to other security forces, where necessary;

- The third level is the DIS line of surveillance, i.e. the area within and around refugee camps and towns monitored in conjunction with local security forces, such as the gendarmerie and the national police. It should be noted that all these forces have communication devices to exchange information in real time.

8. These three levels of security have already proven to be effective. The activities of the bandits and criminals who used to scour this area until quite recently have now been sharply curtailed because they now lack places of refuge or shelter. We hope that the considerable period of calm that has reigned in the area since the beginning of the year will be maintained and sustained.

9. MINURCAT provides significant communications support to DIS. MINURCAT has just established a mechanism for coordinating DIS activities with local security and administrative bodies through the distribution of VHF radios to Chadian authorities in the main towns in eastern Chad. This system will enable forces to mobilize immediately to combat crimes in real time.

10. Contrary to the views of some Security Council members, who are influenced and encouraged by some malicious NGOs, Chad is now in a position to exercise its sovereign responsibility to provide full security for persons and goods throughout its territory. It should be recalled that at the height of the Darfur crisis, which resulted in the influx of thousands of refugees into its territory, Chad dealt with the situation all alone, providing protection and security for refugees and humanitarian workers alike. Neither the European Union Force (EUFOR) nor MINURCAT existed during that difficult period. Thus, Chadian gendarmes of the Commission nationale d'aide

aux réfugiés (CNAR), précurseur de DIS, prévoyait notamment protection du personnel humanitaire, car il n'y avait pas d'actes criminels ni d'enlèvements de personnel humanitaire jusqu'à l'arrivée de la force multinationale. Ces actes criminels ont commencé à se produire avec la présence de cette force. Des bandes ont profité du vide pour commettre leurs forfaits, ternissant ainsi l'image de notre pays alors que les forces de défense et de sécurité gardaient les frontières et que la force multinationale se terrait derrière des sacs de sable laissés par l'EUFOR.

11. Compte tenu de la situation actuelle, notamment de l'amélioration des relations avec le Soudan, toutes les forces de défense et de sécurité seront mobilisées pour assurer la sécurité de la zone afin de permettre aux travailleurs humanitaires et aux autres acteurs de s'acquitter de leurs tâches dans un climat de paix.

12. La MINURCAT et la Coordination nationale d'appui à la force interétatique au Tchad (COMAFIT) coordonneront toutes ces activités.

13. DIS est composé de gendarmes et de policiers tchadiens. C'est un corps qui a été spécialement créé pour le maintien de l'ordre dans les camps de réfugiés, les camps de personnes déplacées et les localités clefs de l'est du Tchad, et pour assurer la sécurité des opérations humanitaires dans cette partie du pays.

14. Les membres de DIS sont sélectionnés, formés et supervisés par la police internationale (UNPOL) de la MINURCAT et nous en sommes très reconnaissants. Nous voudrions à ce stade reconnaître que la MINURCAT et le Tchad ont vécu une expérience réussie et unique en matière de formation de DIS, qui a été un outil efficace. DIS a fait la fierté de la MINURCAT et du Tchad. Il a été exclusivement chargé de la sécurité dans les camps de réfugiés, les camps de personnes déplacées et les localités clefs, de la police communautaire et de l'escorte des convois humanitaires.

15. C'est pourquoi le Tchad entend maintenir la structure de cette force efficace, qui a été bien formée conformément aux normes internationales relatives aux droits de l'homme, tout en développant sa taille et en la dotant de plus de moyens, même après le retrait de la MINURCAT, jusqu'à ce que la crise du Darfour soit réglée et que les réfugiés soient retournés dans leur patrie.

16. DIS, qui est placé sous le commandement du Représentant spécial du Président du Tchad chargé de la COMAFIT, est mis à la disposition de la MINURCAT jusqu'à l'expiration du mandat de cette dernière. Les membres de DIS restent des gendarmes et des policiers tchadiens qui servent dans leur pays et conservent leurs droits nationaux en plus des primes qu'ils reçoivent de la MINURCAT. Après le retrait définitif de la MINURCAT, le Tchad assumera l'entière responsabilité de DIS en matière de logistique, d'équipement et de financement. Le Gouvernement tchadien espère que, pour ce qui est des besoins et de la gestion de l'espace humanitaire, il pourra compter sur la coopération de ses partenaires des Nations Unies, notamment sur l'appui du Bureau du Haut-Commissaire aux droits de l'homme et du Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement.

17. Le Tchad réitère sa confiance dans la capacité de l'Organisation des Nations Unies de trouver rapidement une solution mutuellement avantageuse pour permettre un retrait progressif de la MINURCAT conformément au calendrier convenu dans le document officieux du 23 avril. Le Tchad espère que le Conseil de sécurité autorisera le Secrétaire général à honorer ses engagements — tous ses engagements — notamment en matière d'infrastructures. Le Tchad serait très déçu si le

Council fail to do so, in which case it reserves the legitimate right to demand payment of fees for airport services, since Chad understood the non-payment of such fees by MINURCAT as being in exchange for the construction of parking aprons at Abéché and N'Djamena for the huge MINURCAT air fleet.

19. The Government of Chad and the United Nations are partners who will have to work together to find a viable outcome to the Darfur crisis to someday permit the voluntary repatriation in secure conditions of the Darfur refugees to their country. We are pleased to note that the internally displaced persons have returned to their home villages thanks to the support measures taken by the Government and its partners. Had it not been for the tendency of some humanitarian agencies to prolong assistance unnecessarily, all these persons would have returned to their villages already. However, this will happen by the end of the year.

Done at New York on 20 May 2010.